

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSY-02
ARA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06
CCO-00 /113 W

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R 011402Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7304

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 2449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJ: SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION OF ZAIRE-ANGOLAN DISPUTE

REF: STATE 66446

1. DURING MY MARCH 31 CONVERSATION ON ANOTHER SUBJECT WITH GOG COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI, HE SAID HIS INFORMATION FROM GHANAIAN EMBASSY IN KINSHASA WAS SKETCHY AND ASKED WHAT INFORMATION I COULD GIVE HIM ON THE ZAIRE-ANGOLAN SITUATION. DRAWING ON RECENT STATE TELEGRAMS, AND POINTING OUT THAT REPORTS WERE OFTEN CONFUSING AND FRAGMENTARY, I REVIEWED THE SITUATION, STRESSING OUR CONCERN OVER ITS POSSIBLE EFFECTS IN AFRICA AND OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN MEDIATION EFFORTS. I NOTED THAT WHILE THE ZIRE-ANGOLAN DISPUTE WAS
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EMPHATICALLY AN AFRICAN PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BY AFRIANS, WE COULD NOT HELP BUT BE CONCERNED THAT THE OBVIOUS EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN WHAT ADMITTEDLY IS A LONG-STANDING INTERNAL CONFLICT IN THE SHABA REGION REPRESENTS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER NIGERIA. I SAID THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION APPEARED TO THEATEN ZAIREAN UNITY AND

PEACE IN CENTRAL AFRICA. IT ALSO POSED A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO LONG-STANDING AFRICAN OPPOSITION TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

2. FELLI ASKED IF WE HAD HARD EVIDENCE OF CUBAN OR SOVIET TROOPS AMONG THE KATAGAN FORCES. I SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH FIRM EVIDENCE BUT UNDERSTOOD THAT CUBANS AND SOVIETS CONTINUED TO PLAY A KEY ADVISORY AND SUPPORT ROLE FOR THE ANGOLAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THIS WAS ANOTHER REASON WHY WE DEEMED IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE AFRICANS MOVE QUICKLY TO PREVENT FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE FORCES ON BOTH SIDES AND GET MEDIATION UNDERWAY WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME.

3. FELLI SAID HIS OWN INFORMATION AGREED WITH OUR ANALYSIS AND THAT HE WAS "IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE NIGERIANS." HE SAID HE HAD RECENTLY SENT GHANAIAAN ROVING AMBASSADOR JOE APPIAH (RECENTLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER AS WELL) TO KINSHASA FOR AN ON-THE-SPOT ASSESSMENT. APPIAH HAD ONLY RETURNED A FEW DAYS AGO AND HIS REPORT WAS STILL BEING STUDIED. GHANA SHARED OUR CONCERN AT THE EVENTS IN SHABA, BUT UNTIL THAT STUDY IS COMPLETED, HE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN OF WHAT SPECIFIC ACTION GHANA MIGHT TAKE.
SMITH

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